

**The Coventry Motor Museum played host to this year's Young Engineers Competition, which saw records broken and rules flouted (by some)**

THIS year's Young Engineers Competition broke a number of records:

- **Plumpton College (not present this year) lost the accolade of longest distance travelled to a YE Competition to SAC who came all the way down from Scotland.**
- **Winning entries in both Class 1 and Class 2 did not use their wheels to gain traction.**

PROJECTILES were much in evidence this year with one entry (the 'Pocket Rocket' - a hand primed catapult that would have made *Just William* proud) banned outright for contravening rule 3.

The venue this year was the Coventry Motor Museum where we were all made very welcome. The day commenced with messrs Robinson Major and Robinson Minor (of lead sponsors and organisers - Autoguide Equipment) erecting the ramp under the watchful eye of IAgRE CEO Chris Whetnall.

Chris, armed as usual with his wide array of heart pills, immediately saw the need to dip into this collection as the ramp took shape rather close to one of the fire sprinklers. Mindful of previous heart stopping moments, he chose to keep quiet and hope for the best . . . perhaps not the best of judgements as events turned out.

The scrutineers (those Robinsons again), ably assisted by Craig Grant of Sponsors Bosch Rexroth, did their bit and classified those that were within the rules and those that were not. There were 18 teams in all, 2



Winner of the Class Two category- 'Pokey Pins' (Reaseheath)

from SAC, 12 from Reaseheath and 4 from Brooksby.

All were awarded prizes ranging from £10 pounds (12 runners up) and cash prizes of £150, £125 and £100 (all plus Bosch Tools) for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in two classes making a prize fund of £870 in all. Even *Just William's* catapult team were given £10 in the hopes that they would go away and come up with something within the rules next year (or perhaps just go away).

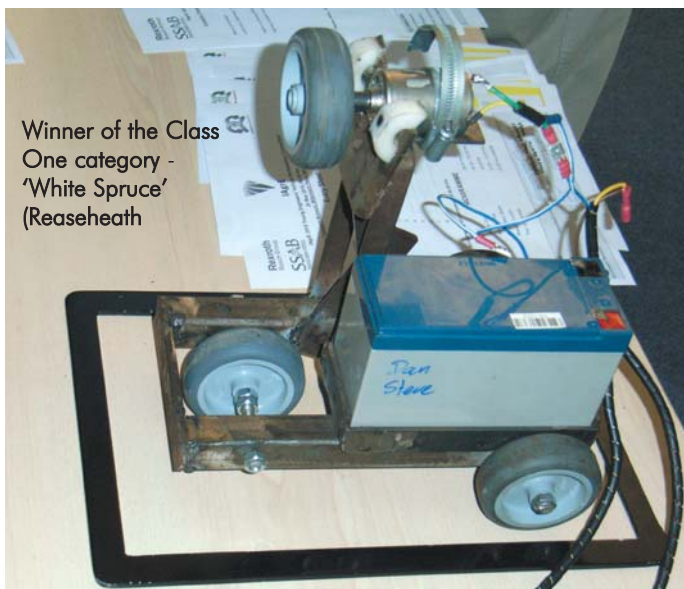
**Winners were:**

**CLASS ONE**

- 1st Reaseheath - 'White Spruce'
- 2nd SAC - 'The Ram'
- 3rd Reaseheath - 'Cat'

**CLASS TWO**

- 1st Reaseheath - 'Pokey Pins'
- 2nd SAC 'Craibstone on Tour'
- 3rd Reaseheath 'Coopster'



Winner of the Class One category - 'White Spruce' (Reaseheath)

'WHITE Spruce' should probably have been banned as fitting into the projectile category but unfortunately the closet lawyers deemed it acceptable.

Quite cleverly designed, one of the four supplied wheels was spun up to some considerable rpm before being ejected off its shaft and allowed to spin its way to victory. (Such was the velocity of the wheel in transit that it managed to complete three 'cycles' of the track (up to the laser height measuring bar - bouncing back to the carpet where it regained traction completing another two circuits before being deftly caught by its handler)).



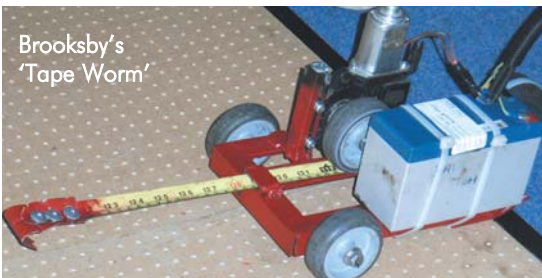
Ian Benson of sponsors Lucas Fettes deep in conversation with Richard Trevarthen IAgRE and Guest

Chris Whetnall, meanwhile, could be seen to be chomping on his heart pills as the wheel spun dangerously close to the aforementioned Sprinkler head. There was also muttering from the Judges about having to include the words 'envelope' and 'contained within' somewhere in next year's rules!

'Pokey Pins' was probably the most elegant solution being Classified Class Two because it did not fit within the defined measurements. Essentially a walking machine, it gracefully and leisurely made its way up the ramp utilising the peg board holes as purchase for the multitudinous 'pokey pins' on its three feet.

Other entries included:

- 'Tape Worm' - a rework of the Brooksby



motorised tape measure (which suffered from that affliction known to all d.i.y.ers of 'droop' just before the measured length is achieved).

- A couple of grappling irons which either failed to reach design velocity or failed to grapple (or indeed - both).
- A motorised 'siege tower' which failed to deploy and was probably too short anyway.
- A motorised wire brush 'Scrubber' (designed to get the bristles of the brush engaging with the peg board holes but failing to do so in a meaningful way) which at least left the 'raceway' clean.
- A twin propeller device which perhaps did better than its geometry suggested.

NEW sponsors this year were Lucas Fettes (Insurance Brokers) represented at this event by Ian Benson.

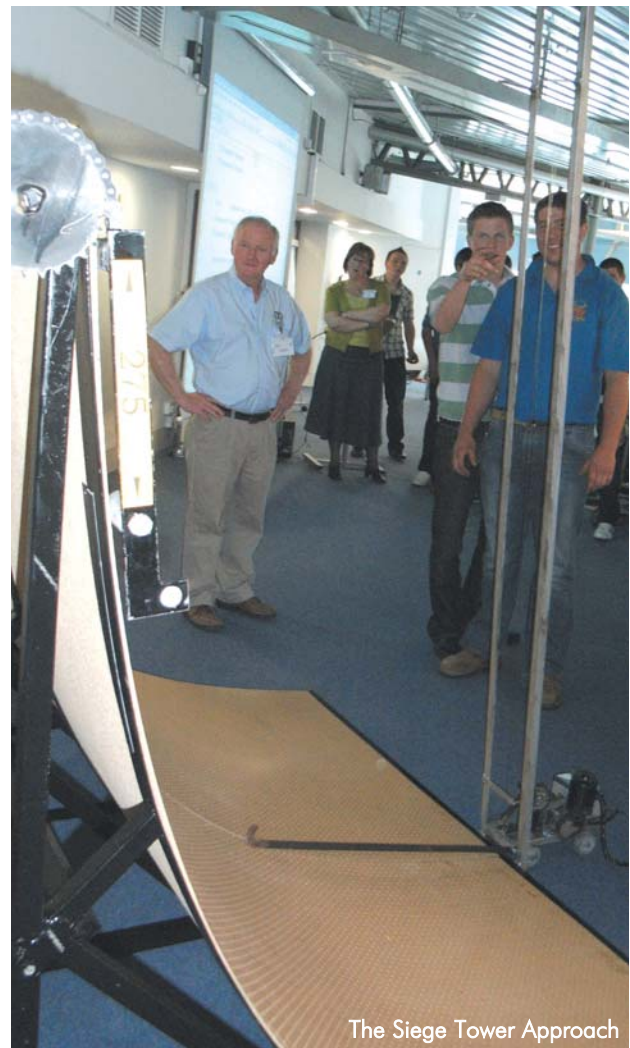
Whilst the Judges were deliberating, Ian took the opportunity to speak to the assembled throng about the importance of carrying out risk assessments and the need to take out appropriate Professional Indemnity and / or Personal Liability insurance. A timely reminder given the proximity of the ramp to the fire sprinkler head.

Thanks to all who took part and those who supported including, in particular, the sponsors - Autoguide Equipment, Bosch Rexroth and Lucas Fettes. And last but certainly not least, thanks to Sylvia Harris for herding the cats.



Winners Class 1 (Steve Bowen and Dan Baron) receiving their prize from Craig Grant (right) of Bosch Rexroth

Chris Whetnall is reportedly recovering quietly in a darkened room and will be OK . . . in due course (or at least when his memory has faded).



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